

ABSTRACT

A server or proxy server transmits streaming video data . An identification is made of either: an average or minimum available bandwidth of a link over which a data stream of a given video segment is to be transmitted or a capability of a recipient host to which the data stream is to be transmitted. A selection is made of either: a corresponding one of a plurality of predetermined ranges of bandwidths so that the selected range contains the identified average minimum available bandwidth; or a corresponding one of a plurality of different data stream types so that the identified capability of the recipient host is used to process data of the selected data stream type. The data stream is coded in a manner which takes advantage of the range of bandwidths or type of data stream that has been or is to be selected. The coded data stream is transmitted over the link to a recipient.